

thousands of family-owned businesses and farms to the tune of \$46 billion in tax penalties and administrative costs.

No American family should be forced to pay 60 percent of their savings and their business or their farm in taxes when a loved one dies. By repealing the death tax, we will help to preserve thousands of family-owned farms and small businesses across the country that will not have to be sold just to pay this onerous tax.

Mr. Speaker, we are not just ending a tax; we are attempting to preserve the American dream.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, I went on a hunger tour in Appalachia in parts of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and I heard about a man by the name of Tom Nelson who is one of the tens of millions of poor Americans we do not see. He was a senior citizen who worked at a food bank in Huntington.

A few months ago, the food bank was not able to pay Mr. Nelson, in large measure because it had not received funding promised by the State for nearly a year. To stretch his Social Security check, Mr. Nelson tried to stretch his blood pressure medicine. The cause of his death was listed as a heart attack, but the truth is he died trying to feed his family.

The poorest 2½ percent of Americans rank with the poorest people in the world, according to the World Health Organization. I think the only thing more shameful than that is the fact that too few of us know about people like Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, this is the People's House, and I urge all of us, including the Nation's media, to look harder for the 30 million Americans who go hungry each year, and for many more who every day must make the choice Mr. Nelson made between paying for food or paying for medicine.

NEW MEXICO FIRES AND H.R. 1522

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, devastating forest fires like this are burning vast areas in our Nation. Today, my subcommittee is having a timely joint hearing on fire management that begin on Federal lands.

Last year on this subject, I introduced H.R. 1522, which is a very simple bill designed to reduce fire risks like this in areas like Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the forest meets the town in the wildland urban interface.

Many of these forests are simply too dense, too crowded, with too many

trees, after 100 years of fire prevention, to be treated by fire alone. My bill calls for thinning of forests to make it easier and safer to allow fires naturally to return without being destructive.

On February 9, 1999, at a hearing on my bill, the Clinton-Gore administration testified against this bill. They said that these kinds of treatments of thinning were simply unnecessary. A couple of weeks ago, Secretary Babbitt held a press conference where he announced that we need a new strategy to deal with fire risks in these urban-wildland interfaces, a strategy that calls for a combination of thinning and prescribed fire. What a revelation. We need this now.

MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES BYRD, JR.

(Mr. DELAHUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in marking the solemn anniversary of the senseless murder of James Byrd. Random acts of violence have become a tragic part of modern American life, but James Byrd was not selected at random. No, he was singled out for death solely because of his race.

Just as the youngsters at the Jewish day school in Los Angeles County were singled out because of their religion. Just as Matthew Shepard and Private First Class Barry Winchell were singled out because of their sexual orientation. They were not random victims. They were targeted not because of what they did or where they were, but because of who they were.

Each of these vicious acts was intended to send a message, a message of hatred and intimidation. Well, it is time for us to send a message in response. It is time to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

□ 1030

DEATH TAX

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we are faced with the largest tax burden since World War II and what many people do not realize is that the Federal Government is really taxing American values. A good example is the death tax.

The death tax is one of the most onerous taxes imposed by the Federal Government. It is double and triple taxation on American families' hard-earned savings. Even worse, the death tax forces grieving sons and daughters to sell family businesses or farms just to pay the tax. It is absolutely outrageous that we allow the Federal Government to do this to families.

Enough is enough. It is time to repeal the death tax and end the assault

on American values of family, hard work, savings, and entrepreneurship.

Let us bury the death tax now. By doing this, we will be giving freedom and a new birth to the next generation of families, farmers, and small business owners.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to say that an institution such as the United States Congress is judged as much for what it supports as what it opposes. It is time now for us to support the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act and to oppose the hateful acts that caused the dismemberment of James Byrd, Jr., caused the tragic killing in Illinois of Jews and Asians and African Americans, and the terrible attack on the Jewish day care center in Los Angeles. It is time for this institution to be able to say that we abhor hate crimes.

I join Senator ROBB in the offering of Senate Resolution 92 that will ask or state the sense of this House or the sense of the Senate is to oppose hateful acts, and I will offer such a resolution in this House.

Let me also end by simply saying I applaud as well on another topic Tipper Gore's message and effort to provide more mental health resources for Americans and America's children. I held a hearing in my district that indicates that children need to be listened to and heard and that children have depression and mental health needs as well.

Let us pass a bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

BRING HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join today in urging Congress to, not only debate the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, but pass it. We should no longer in America tolerate racial hatred, bigotry, crimes against persons because of their sexual orientation.

We are America. We are a proud country. But, regrettably, deaths like James Byrd, which occurred 2 years ago today, still occur in America, the death of Matthew Shepard, the death of so many others based on their color, their race, their ethnicity, or their orientation. Shamefully, America witnesses once again every day another dimension of killing in this country.

But only if Congress speaks loudly against violence and specifically against violence perpetrated because of hate will we only cleanse our souls and urge our Nation to move forward in a better, more positive spirit.